

# Wendy Anne Parker

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## Experience

### Iowa Department of Education Special Education Mediator

1-2025 to Present

- Conduct mediations between school districts and families

### Special Education Consultant

8-2023 to Present

- Consult with districts around special education issues, including coaching of administrators, program review process, and assistance with special education situations.

### Executive Director of Special Services

7-2016 to 11-2022 Cedar Rapids Community Schools, Cedar Rapids, IA

- Supervise all aspects of the special education program for Cedar Rapids Schools
- Directly supervise four Special Services Directors as well as an additional nine District level staff
- Indirectly supervise over 200 teachers and 400 support staff
- Oversee a budget of over 50 million dollars
- Restructured our service delivery plan to move from a categorical based program to a more inclusive model
- Member of the Superintendent's Cabinet
- Oversee all due process complaints around special education
- Provide professional learning to District administrators
- Level 1 lead investigator for the District
- Collaborated with HR to recruit and retain staff for special education
- Analyze district special education program to create action plans for improvement

### Special Education Director

12-2012 to 6-2016 Prairie Lakes AEA, Pocahontas, IA

- Supervise all special education services provided by the AEA to 43 districts
- Ensure that all children entitled to special education within the agency receive an appropriate program or service
- Assign weightings for funding purposes
- Directly supervise all Regional Administrators
- Indirectly supervise 240 staff members
- Oversee due process complaints
- Assist local districts in delivering high quality services

- Oversee a budget of over 23 million dollars
- Participate in state-wide decision making with other AEA Directors
- Key player in DE Specially Designed Instruction project
- Implemented a special education review process for districts
- Restructured services to focus more on results and less on compliance
- Led an agency-wide professional learning model with emphasis on instructional coaching that includes peer coaching
- Created a K-12 school for students with significant behaviors to serve a consortium of districts
- Moved from an expert model to a collaborative model of services

### **Director of Secondary Educational Services**

2-2000 to 12-2012 Newton Community Schools, Newton, IA

- Oversee all aspects of special education, curriculum and human resources for the secondary schools
- Coordinate professional development activities for the secondary schools
- Collaborate with Director of Elementary Educational Services to ensure alignment of programming
- Facilitated the implementation of PBIS at the secondary schools
- Previously held positions as MS Assistant Principal, HS Assistant Principal, Director of Basics and Beyond Alternative High School, and PK-12 Special Education Director while employed with Newton Schools
- Restructured special education programs to increase access to core curriculum at all levels
- Implementation of professional development activities that include instruction and coaching at the classroom level
- Created and taught numerous AEA and Drake graduate credit courses around the areas of poverty, bullying and harassment, standards-based grading, and KU Content Enhancement Strategies
- Facilitated procedure to align the current Newton curriculum to the Iowa Core Curriculum
- Provided oversight and participated in all due process complaints
- Level 1 investigator

### **Adjunct Professor**

2006 to 2013 Buena Vista University, Newton, IA

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- Taught “Exceptional Learner” and “Human Relations for the Classroom Teacher” courses
- Created on-line course for “Exceptional Learner”

### **Middle School Principal**

1996 to 2000 Dexfield Schools, Redfield, IA

- Supervised all aspects of 6 to 8 middle school with 300 students
- Managed dissolution of middle school program after sharing agreement with Stuart/Menlo Schools was terminated by the two boards
- Restructured special education program to increase access of students with special needs to core curriculum
- Level 1 investigator

### **BD Teacher/Behavior Interventionist**

1994 to 1996 Goodrell MS, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, IA

- Chaired the committee that restructured the special education delivery system at Goodrell Middle School, 6-8 building with 700 students
- Created and implemented the first Behavior Interventionist position for Des Moines Schools that influenced the reduction of special education suspensions by 80% at Goodrell MS in one year
- Provided instruction to 18 self-contained students with behavior goals

### **BD Teacher**

1991 to 1994 University Alternative HS, Burlington Schools, Burlington, IA

- Created first BD self-contained program at University Alternative HS
- Provided instruction to 11 self-contained students with behavior goals

## **Education**

### **Iowa State University, Ames, IA**

1995 to 2002

- ABD for PhD in Educational Administration
- Successfully completed written and oral exam for PhD

### **Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL**

1991 to 1994

Wendy Anne Parker

- MA in Special Education
- Finished with a 4.0 GPA

**University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA**

1982 to 1987

- BA in Secondary Education, English

**References**

**Jeff Herzberg**

Former Chief, Prairie Lakes AEA  
(515) 570-2601

**Stacey Cole**

Superintendent, Storm Lake Schools  
(712) 299-3071

**Terry Hemann**

Superintendent, Spencer Community Schools  
(712) 584-5422

**Brad Buck**

Superintendent, Waukee Community Schools  
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**Maria Cashman**

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